

THE ARGUS.

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Monday, January 10, 1916.

Rock Island—From River to River.

Speaking of disloyal Americans and breeders of strife, how about Representative Gardner of Massachusetts?

And just as before it's the merchant who does the advertising who gets the bulk of the business in the new year revival.

Christian civilization is making rapid headway in China. News comes that Chinese are also burning churches and slaughtering people.

It looks as if it were going to be a hard year for the G. O. P. There isn't enough calamity to make a campaign on.

In this glad leap year it is to be hoped that the dear girls will give as much thought to the selection of the bridegroom as they do to the selection of the trousseau.

Germany having yielded to every demand and conceded every contention raised by President Wilson in the matter of submarine warfare and having done so graciously, it remains to be seen what the Washington correspondents of the metropolitan press will hit upon now as a basis of belittling the present national administration.

If propagandists for peace, for preparedness, for woman suffrage, against woman suffrage, for the war college, for aeroplane associations, European war relief, boosts for the allies, vindication of the Germans, et cetera, continue to load The Argus with literature every day—well, we will just have to get a bigger waste basket.

The fatal rioting at Youngstown, Ohio, last Friday night could have been avoided had there been some real authority exerted in the start. Armed deputy sheriffs (in many cases hired thugs) have been the cause of more strike trouble than any other irritation. A posse of determined citizens Friday night did more to abate the trouble than any other agency. Trouble-makers are not awed by other trouble-makers, says the Burlington Gazette.

VENTILATE.

On another page of this issue of The Argus appears, on behalf of a number of citizens of Rock Island, a plea for systematic, intelligent ventilation of public places and public conveyances. In view of the epidemic which is sweeping over the country having hit Rock Island as hard, but probably no harder than any other locality, it is contended that schools, churches, theatres, halls and other places where the public is wont to gather, as well as street cars, jitney buses, taxicabs and the like be subjected to frequent ventilation, to the end that fresh, pure air may take the place of the foul atmosphere into which the elements of disease have been emptied.

All physicians argue that the prevailing gripe, or influenza, or severe cold, or whatever it may be called, for it is bad enough by any name, is infectious and while its existence involves no quarantine requirements the best way to avoid more rigid regulation of patients suffering with it is for health authorities to take up the question of proper ventilation wherever the public assembles whether in large or small numbers.

REFORM OF THE MOTOR CAR.

Not only has the automobile passed long since the stage of experiment, but its usefulness and general democracy have been well established, and it is now becoming more kindly and moral and less of a menace to the pedestrian and the innocent bystander. This assertion is not based upon sentiment, but upon statistics compiled by the bureau of census in Washington.

In the course of five years from 1909 to 1914 the number of motor cars in the United States increased more than twice as rapidly as the fatalities caused by them. At the close of 1909 there were approximately 200,000 motor cars in use in this country and at the end of 1914 there were 1,750,000. Statistics as to the deaths from automobile accidents could be produced by the census authorities only from the death registration area—that is to say, in 24 states, the District of Columbia, and 41 cities in other parts of the country.

In that area, embracing about 65 per cent of the population, the number of cars increased 775 per cent in the five-year period; the automobile fatalities increased 315 per cent. For the last year of the five a 38 per cent increase in the number of machines was accompanied by a 12 per cent increase in fatalities. In proportion to the number

of deaths to each 100,000 of the population also the automobile has a constantly improving record when its own numbers are considered.

From these figures the conclusion is drawn, says the Chicago News, that the decrease in the destructiveness of the automobiles is due partly to the reduction of the average annual mileage and partly to the fact that the motor car today is being driven with more care and greater regard for public safety than it was a few years ago. This deduction doubtless will be concurred in by most pedestrians, as well as by car owners and drivers.

EIGHT STARING FACTS.

A prominent advertising agent of Indianapolis has set forth eight facts relative to the financial, commercial and industrial situation of the United States. In reading these facts over we can swell our chest up with unusual pride and be a little out-of-the-ordinary thankful that we live in the good old United States of America.

Here is the way the firm has it figured out:

1. America is now a creditor of England, France, Germany, Russia and Italy, as well as of most of the smaller nations.
2. Never in the history of the world have the rates of exchange on all the rest of the world moved so powerfully in favor of one market as they are now operating in favor of New York.
3. All the standard transportation and industrial securities hold stubbornly to higher price levels.
4. Clearing house exchanges for the third week in November reached the record mark of \$4,903,000,000, an increase of 74 per cent over the same week in 1914 and 42 per cent over 1913.
5. Greatly enlarged iron and steel capacity has been absorbed to the limit. October last saw the daily output for the first time in the history of any country pass the 100,000 ton mark. The monthly production is now over 3,000,000 tons—in which munitions play a minor part.
6. The freight movement is the heaviest in history and in this again war material plays a very small part.
7. Exports are far and away the heaviest in history, and a very considerable proportion of these exports are going to South America, South Africa, China, India and other territories outside the war zone.
8. We have produced record crops at a record price level. The last government estimate on the six great grain crops is 5,906,000,000 bushels, against 5,552,000,000 in 1912, the most abundant previous season.

PROBLEMS OF THE SOCIAL SIDE.

Being a bride in the White house is not what it's cracked up to be. It is an honor, of course, one that almost any American would be glad to assume, but life on Capitol hill is not all a bed of roses.

The new first lady in the land, President Wilson's bride, has been duly installed in the executive mansion and has assumed her official duties. The bride and groom have hardly had time to settle down as yet, with arranging wedding presents and changing the regime of the household to suit new conditions, and the smiles have not faded from the faces of White house attaches, but already the White house bride is assailed with difficulties.

The president is expected to give a big diplomatic dinner every year, to be attended by all the ambassadors and ministers and secretaries of legations and military and naval attaches. This year can be no exception to the general rule, but this year's dinner is beset with difficulties that have not affected the dinners of other years, for this year there is a war in Europe and half the diplomats in Washington are not on speaking terms.

As a result, the president is forced to give two dinners, at one of which the diplomats of the quadruple alliance will be present and at the other the diplomats of the central powers and their allies. This much is simple enough. But to give a dinner and invite all the diplomatic corps except the representatives of one faction of the European war would be a calamitous breach of etiquette that could not be remedied by a second dinner in which the other faction would be left out. Here was the White house bride's first diplomatic difficulty.

Washington society was all excitement, wondering how the new first lady would solve her problem. It need not have worried, for evidently Mrs. Wilson is something of a diplomat herself. She has announced that, owing to international unpleasantness abroad, she will have two dinners and has gotten around the difficulty of who to invite to each by drawing lots alternately among the neutral diplomatic corps for one and the other, which will offend no one not seeking offense and will avoid any necessity for explanations or apologies.

WORKMEN DIG FOR BURIED TREASURE

Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 10.—Workmen employed by the bank of Montreal continued digging today in an effort to unearth \$45,000, part of the \$271,000 stolen from the bank's branch in New Westminster in 1911. The bank officials have information that the money had been buried near this city.

The Philadelphia man who, though having two legs, couldn't get a job and so preferred that his injured son should die rather than have a leg amputated, illustrates the danger of leaving responsibility to incompetent parents. It is hard to draw the line, but it is a great pity that the operation couldn't have been performed that would have saved the boy's life. That children often need to be saved from their parents is a truth already established, but not recognized as fully as it is bound to be.

Selected by Tavenner



CLYDE H. TAVENNER

To the Readers of The Argus:

The Argus has generously agreed to permit me to make a regular contribution under this head, to use the space as if it were my own. I am left free to make my selection from where I will, whether it is timely or untimely; to search the highways and the byways for what may impress me as of interest and value to the people.

I assure my readers I shall try to make the most of the opportunity. To do so I must forget that party lines exist, and I will, just as I wish it might be practical for them not to exist and that the principal issue on election day might be, not whether a candidate belongs to this or that political party, but whether he is willing to serve the masses of the people or the few, who exploit them.

In other words, my idea is to submit information or a thought that I would give to the world if I myself edited a newspaper, the only mission of which was to serve mankind; to do this and nothing more.

When I personally write the contribution, I will sign it, and when I present the thought and work of others I will so indicate.

CLYDE H. TAVENNER.

A COLLOQUY WHICH OCCURRED IN THE U. S. SENATE, JAN. 5, 1916.

Senator Jones. When so many of our papers are demanding hasty and drastic action by our government because of happenings to alleged Americans who insist upon traveling on belligerent ships and in dangerous territory regardless of the peace of their country and the welfare of the citizens at home, it is refreshing and encouraging to read such an editorial as that in the Washington Post of this morning. The editorial is as follows: "Americans traveling in European waters should keep off vessels belonging to belligerents. They take deadly risks when they travel under fighting flags, and they unnecessarily involve their country in disputes which may lead to war."

"The United States government will not give away the right of its citizens to travel on merchant vessels of any nationality in any waters. That right, however, should be exercised with discretion by citizens. Pending a time when submarine warfare will be conducted under established and accepted rules, American citizens should waive their right to travel under belligerent flags."

Senator Jones. I take it, Mr. President, that the writer means that they should waive these rights not because of fear, not because of the weakness of our country, but in the interest of our country itself and the welfare of its citizens for its own protection.

An American citizen who, in the face of the terrible calamity now engulfing half the civilized world, persists in traveling for pleasure or profit in the danger zone and in a belligerent ship shows that he is utterly lacking in patriotism and wholly regardless of the rights of humanity. He is entitled to no consideration whatever, and for this country to become embroiled in this trouble on his account would be a colossal crime against humanity.

The president has been highly commended for keeping us out of the war in Europe. I want to give him all the praise he deserves, but it has not been a question of keeping us out of this struggle. The people have not wanted to get into it. The question has been not to lead us into it, and I beseech the president now to be careful, to proceed slowly, to make no harsh or arbitrary demands, to keep in view the rights and interests of the 99,999,000 people at home rather than of the 1,000 reckless, inconsiderate, and unpatriotic citizens who insist on going abroad in belligerent ships, and that he do not lead us into a position that means trouble or humiliation.

Senator Nelson. Will the senator allow me a question?

Senator Jones. Certainly.

Senator Nelson. Does the senator intend to imply that Consul McNeely, returning on that ship, was unpatriotic and not a good American citizen?

Senator Jones. I think it would have been better if Consul McNeely had hunted up a neutral ship, as a representative of this government, rather than go on a belligerent ship. That is what I think about Consul McNeely. I regret, of course, his sad fate, but as the representative of the government he should have been more careful even than a private citizen.

Senator Owen. May I venture to suggest to the senator from Washington that where we have need to send our representatives under difficulties it would be better to send them on an American ship, under the protection of an American flag, safeguarded by the power of the United States?

Senator Jones. The senator is entirely right.

Senator Owen. We can furnish an armed vessel to send them abroad.

Senator O'Gorman. It is suggested by the inquiry of the senator from Minnesota (Mr. Nelson). No one can lament more than I the misfortune that came to Consul McNeely if it should unfortunately prove true that he was one of those who lost their lives in the sinking of the Persia, but we are not driven to the necessity suggested by the senator from Oklahoma of sending our consular representatives on American ships. There was a neutral ship that would have safely carried Consul McNeely to his post at Aden, and Consul McNeely was advised by one of our consular representatives long in the service, Consul Skinner, who accompanied him from New York to England, that it would be better for him to continue his journey to Aden on a Dutch vessel that was about to sail. But for reasons, I suppose satisfactory to himself, he disregarded that advice and sailed on a ship of a belligerent, taking those chances and hazards that will come to any neutral who finds himself on the soil of a belligerent nation, because the vessel of a belligerent is as much the property of a belligerent as is the country itself.

CHORDS AND DISCORDS

Some Iowa Surprises.

It is few towns that could find such talent within their bounds. Madam Ohlson-Solem was at her best. She sang the "Perfect Day" and "The Land of the Leal" with such deep sympathy that it immediately gripped the audience. She surprised her audience by giving them two very difficult readings, which she interpreted with no small degree of skill. Miss Flossie Price surprised her friends by the marked improvement of her solo work. Miss Clara Hoyt of the Methodist university of Oklahoma sang a cycle of three numbers, concluding with "His Buttons Are Marked U. S." Miss Hoyt also surprised her friends by the improvement since her graduation from Northwestern university.—Iowa exchange.

THE CHRISTMAS CLEARING HOUSE.

Ma sent out sixty Christmas gifts. And she got forty-nine. No wonder that the lute has rifts. Or that ma doth repine.

A losing game, doth ma aver. In accents rather sad. Exchange of presents has left her Eleven to the bad.

—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Pointed Paragraphs.

There's often a slip after the cup goes to the lip.

A stitch in time may close the mouths of nine gossips. Deeds speak louder than words in a real estate transaction.

The coat does not make the man—not even a coat of tar and feathers. It's much easier to convince others than it is to convince one's self.

Listeners hear as little good about others as they do about themselves. There is glory in any little thing that you do simply from a sense of duty.

The wise man never loses his reputation by attempting to answer fool questions.—Chicago News.

From an interview with Miss Dorothy Newell: "For several years my friends have complimented me upon my beautiful back, though goodness knows it never was of great use to me except as something to put clothes over."

Jibes and Jabs.

Modern costumes seem to have taken all the novelty out of the masquerade party.

For pitching quoits in the parlor, pretzels make fine substitutes for horse shoes.

A fuzzy hat, late in its life, looks as if it had the mange.

A striking example of faith is that displayed by the hen who persistently sits on a collection of China eggs.

There seems to be an air of independence about a pompadour haircut. Some folks haven't any favorite poems, songs, colors, birds, flowers, or bits of sculpture, but they have decided notions about makes of automobiles.

CHARLES LEEDY.

"HAVING been driven out of Iowa, I note," writes F. O. E., "that one of the Davenport liquor concerns has wisely engaged office quarters in the Safety building in this city. Safety first, as it were."

Uncle John Writes.

Dec. 28, 1915.—Editor Union: Thirteen weeks ago I fell and broke my hip. Nine weeks I laid packed in sand and as helpless as a kid, but Clara, C. L. Amrine, her man, Edgar, and the two little girls, did all in their power for my comfort. My three boys came to see me. One came over two thousand miles, not for the money they expect to get, but out of respect for their old dad. The women came in and strewed flowers over my live corpse. The men came with cigars. For all these I feel thankful. I don't have but one enemy and that shows what fools we mortals be.

JOHN RANKIN.

Vermont (Ill.) Union.

Trot Her Out.

"Personally," says Judge Fisher, "I would object to a skirt reaching much above the ankle." Ah, but he never saw Florence.—Chicago Tribune.

Uncle Abner.

When a campaign orator wants to give time for applause he stops and takes a drink of water, however painful it may be.

Almost everybody likes red hair, on somebody else.

Where is the old-fashioned gal who used to make red flannel penwipers for Christmas presents?

Since Hank Purdy has been in love with the grass whither down by the crossroads he has lost four fingers at the sawmill. His mind hasn't been on his work.

A steam laundry can do more tricks with a 50-cent shirt in five minutes than a monkey can with a coconut.

One thing I never heard a woman brag about is her age.

If every fellow would get to bed at 9 o'clock at night and get up at 6 o'clock in the morning there wouldn't be so many sanatoriums doing business in the country.

And say, the common people seem to be getting more common right along.

One cent postage would make it a lot easier for the chumps who want to write love letters.

There ain't no woman who looks as good at 8 o'clock in the morning as she does at 8 o'clock in the evening.

Elmer Jones of our village gave away nine engagement rings last year and didn't succeed in getting one of them back. It is costin' Elmer more to stay single than it would to support a wife.

ROY K. MOULTON.

J. M. C.

The Daily Story

Carrying a War Message—By F. A. Mitchel.

During that period of the pan-European war when Serbia was being overrun by the Germans, when the allied troops were pushing northeastward from Saloniki to form a junction with the Servians, the latter desired to send a message to the French, who were endeavoring to get in touch with them.

One Boris Gurtab, a Servian private soldier, who had done some good secret service work and knew the country well, was willing to undertake the task, but he was only a peasant and without the intellect or education to understand or remember what he would be required to say to the allied commander. The message must be written and if captured by the enemy would result in disaster both to those who sent it and those for whom it was intended.

Boris, though uneducated, was ingenious. He confided to his general his plan for concealing the message, which was a long one, full of details for contingencies. It was written on the thinnest paper. The next day Boris started to work his way across the mountains toward the allies.

He walked with a cane, for in the battles the Servians had been fighting with the Germans he had been wounded in the calf of his leg. His danger was not from being captured by organized armies, for such did not lie in his path. What he feared was the people whom he would meet on the way, whose sympathies were with the Bulgarians and who were on the lookout for spies.

Boris was hobbling along southward when he encountered three Bulgarians who were picketing the road, and he was stopped for examination. He told them that he was a Roumanian who had been in Serbia when attacked by the Germans and had been impressed into the Servian army. He had been wounded in the leg and while in the hospital had found a way to escape. He was on his way home.

The men refused to let him pass without a thorough examination, for they had been stationed on the road to make sure that there should be no communication between the armies trying to effect a junction. They took off every bit of his clothing and, after examining it thoroughly, turned it, including his hat and his shoes and the staff on which he leaned. They even combed his hair. When they were satisfied that he bore no message they procured him clothing from a farmhouse in which they made their headquarters and, cutting him a cane from a tree, let him pass on.

This stoppage confirmed his belief that the enemy were impressed with the importance to their cause of preventing any communication between the Servians and the allies. He had passed the first picket, but felt sure

that it was not the last. True enough, while descending a mountain which lay between the two opposing armies he met a guard of Bulgarian soldiers who had been ordered to look out for spies, or, rather, for any one who would be likely to carry a message.

Again Boris was stopped and ordered to give an account of himself. He told the same story as before. He was stripped and his clothing examined, but it was returned to him. They even unwound the bandage about the wound in his leg to see if there was anything concealed in it. They were about to let him pass when one of them suggested that he might have swallowed a paper ball with a message on it and proposed to give him an emetic. Procuring some mustard from a house near by, they forced him to drink some of it mixed with water. He threw up everything on his stomach, but nothing in the nature of a message. Then they gave him a piece of rye bread and bade him proceed on his journey.

A third time he was stopped not far from the French lines and put through an oral examination by the officer commanding an outpost, before whom he was taken. This man plied him with so many questions that he contradicted himself, and, although nothing incriminating was found on him, he was held and placed under guard. During the night he began to grow as if in pain and presently lay stiff and stark, as though dead. There was no medical man at hand to examine him, so they covered him with a cavalryman's cape and betook themselves to sleep.

As soon as Boris heard their snore he rolled into some brush near him and, getting up on his legs, proceeded on his journey. At dawn from a height he saw the French flag flying below and, descending, reached the picket line at sunrise. He asked that the commanding officer be called and when ushered into his presence told him that he was the bearer of a written message from the Servians. When asked for it he said that he must have a surgeon. One was sent for, and when he arrived Boris removed the bandage from his leg and told the surgeon to probe into the wound.

From between the muscles the surgeon drew forth a flat capsule and handed it to Boris, who broke it open and took out some carefully folded thin paper, which he gave the general. It contained 500 words so closely written and in such diminutive letters that a microscope was needed to read it.

Boris' wound was not improved by the insertion, but it had been done by a surgeon, and the capsule had been medicated and oiled, so that the damage was partly balanced by the healing substance.

Sidelights on the European War

Christiania, Norway.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—Prices on all sorts of paper in Norway have gone up 30 to 40 per cent and are still on the increase. Some sort can not be manufactured by the Norwegian paper mills, as, for instance, blue paper, for want of blue dye-stuff, which usually is supplied by Germany.

The central valleys in Norway are great lumber districts, much like northern Minnesota. The principle trees are pine and evergreen and, thanks to the numerous cellulose and paper mills, which have been built in the last 15 or 20 years, the value of the woods has increased considerably. So many foreign factories had to stop because of the war prices on the products from the Norwegian plants have gone up—on cellulose from \$40 a ton before the war to \$70 a ton now.

London.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—The succession to

the command of the British armies in France, left vacant by the resignation of General French, lay between Sir Douglas Haig and Sir William Robertson, say those who pretend to know what goes on behind the scenes. Robertson, a fellow Scot, is a year older than Haig and passed from being head of the staff college to chief of staff at the general headquarters in France. General Haig has been a practical soldier rather than a theorist. He stands alone as the only commanding officer in the British army who has never been a target of criticism in the war.

Panama.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—The broad flat top of Gatun dam is to serve for a golf course and a club is now being organized by the officials of the Panama canal and others. Major General George W. Goethals, U. S. A., governor of the Panama canal, has approved the formation of the club and has given permission for the use of Gatun dam.

KITCHENER AND GREY AT WAR COUNCIL



Lord Kitchener (left) and Sir Edward Grey leaving for council in Paris.

On his way back from the Dardanelles, where Lord Kitchener, the British minister of war, decided to withdraw the British forces from the Gallipoli peninsula, he, in company with Sir Edward Grey, the British minister of foreign affairs, attended the war council of the allies, held in Paris. The photograph shows Lord Kitchener and Sir Edward Grey leaving their hotel in Paris for the French ministry of foreign affairs.

Daily History Class—Jan. 10.

1800—The Pemberton mill at Lawrence, Mass., collapsed, killing and maiming 525 persons.

1803—Lyman Beecher, father of the famous family, died; born 1775.

1915—Marshall P. Wilder, humorist and author, died; born 1860. Fighting at Solsonas was checked by a flood in the Aisne. The French carried "spur 132," northeast of the